

## Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 181220Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6045

USNATO IMMEDIATE 1345

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USUN NEW YORK 0470

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0225

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO SECDEF, CINCLANT AND COMICEDEFOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH UK

REF: A. REYKJAVIK 0222 (DTG 171945Z FEB 76)

B. USNATO 0819 (ETG 161745Z FEB 76) (NOTAL)

C. STATE 38096 (DTG 180014Z FEB 76) (NOTAL)

1. I HAD CONVERSATION EARLY THIS MORNING SEPARATELY

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WITH PRIMEMIN HALLGRIMSSON AND FONMIN AGUSTSSON ABOUT

TWO HOURS BEFORE ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (FRC) MEETS TO PUT ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL ON DIPLOMATIC BREAK WITH UK. I WENT OVER THE SAME GROUND AS I DID YESTERDAY AND ON FEBRUARY 13, REINFORCED BY CONCERN EXPRESSED IN REFTEL (C). BOTH REMAINED ADAMANT THAT GOI MUST PROCEED WITH THE BREAK. PRIMEMIN SAID HE WILL MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT THROUGH AN IP MEMBER OF FRL TO POSTPONE BREAK FOR AT LEAST A FEW MORE DAYS, BUT DOUBTED HE WOULD SUCCEED. FONMIN WAS IN AN UNCOMPROMISING MOOD ON THIS POINT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO KEEPING OPEN LINE OF COMMUNICATION THROUGH LUNS, FONMIN SAID HE SAW NO MERIT IN ANY OF UK'S POINTS AS CONVEYED THROUGH LUNS. PRIMEMIN ON OTHER HAND, SAID THAT IF BREAK WITH UK DOES INDEED CALM SITUATION HERE IN ICELAND HE WILL TRY TO MAKE OFFER THROUGH LUNS AS REPORTED PARA FOUR REFTEL (A). HE SAID HE REALIZES IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING A STANDSTILL SITUATION. HE REITERATED, AS HE DID YESTERDAY, THT UK TRAWLERS MUST STOP FISHING IN THE CONSERVATION ZONES, WHERE ICELANDIC TRAWLERS ARE FORBIDDEN TO FISH. IN THIS REGARD, REPORT RECEIVED LAST NIGHT INDICATES UK TRAWLERS HAVE MOVED OUT OF THESE ZONES, BUT A FOURTH FRIGATE HAS JOINED THE UK PROTECTION UNIT, MAKING A TOTAL OF TEN PROTECTION SHIPS FOR THE 34 UK TRAWLERS PRESENTLY FISHING HERE. (NUMBER UK TRAWLERS IS TWICE THE NUMBER UK GENERALLY MAINTAINS HERE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, A SITUATION WHICH IS CAUSING CLAIM BY ICELANDERS THAT UK NOT REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT VOLUNTARILY LIMITING ITS CATCH.)

3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ALL POINTS IN REFTEL (C) HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY MADE OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND PRESSED IN STRONGEST TERMS DURING PAST SEVERAL DAYS. HOWEVER, UK CONTINUED FISHING IN THE CONSERVATION ZONES AND CONTINUED (ALLEGED) RAMMINGS ARE THE LAST STRAWS FOR ICELAND'S PATIENCE. PUBLIC EMOTIONS HERE CANNOT BE OVER-STATED. THEY ARE RUNNING SO HIGH THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE BREAK WOULD TAKE PLACE. IN TODAY'S ATMOSPHERE, BY THIS I MEAN CURRENTLY, LOGIC HASN'T A CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANCE. HOWEVER, ICELANDIC EMOTIONS CAN DROP AS RAPIDLY AS THEY RISE. FOR THIS REASON, IF A CALM SITUATION CAN BE MADE TO PREVAIL IN THE DISPUTED WATERS FOR EVEN A PERIOD AS BRIEF AS A COUPLE OF WEEKS, I BELIEVE PRIMEMIN CAN SUCCEED IN GETTING APPROVAL TO MAKE AN OFFER FOR LUNS TO PRESENT TO UK.

4. REGARDING PARA THREE REFTEL (C), I BELIEVE WE HAVE

DISCOURAGED THAT IDEA WITHOUT FEAR OF ITS RESURRECTION.

5. RESULTS OF FRC MEETING WILL BE COMMUNICATED AS  
SOON AS KNOWN. AS OF TRANSMISSION THIS TEL MEETING  
STILL GOING ON.  
IRVING

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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